



**Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land & Water Quality
O&M Newsletter**

October 2006

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators, and associated persons

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be considered out-of-compliance for enforcement purposes. And lastly, don't forget that you must also report any exceedence(s) to the Department through a phone call/voicemail within 24 hours of the occurrence and that within five days of the occurrence you'll need to provide the Department with a report that includes the following information:

1. A description of the discharge and cause of non-compliance; and
2. The period on noncompliance, including exact dates and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue and steps taken to reduce, eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-complying discharge.

Just a Reminder! Effluent Exceedences and Coming Back into Compliance

Recently two facilities reported exceedences of their daily maximum bacteria limits and because they had performed the normal number of tests for that week (as required by their permits); they were under the assumption that they did not have to perform any further testing for that week. This assumption was incorrect. If you have an exceedence of any of your licensed parameters, you are required to continue testing until you can show that that parameter is back into compliance. If you do not continue testing, every day between an out-of-compliance test and the next proven day of compliance can

You may also use the attached Non-Compliance/Discharge Incident Report form. Thanks for your cooperation with this issue!

Denise F. Behr

Approved Training

October 17, 2006 in Easton, ME –
Simplifying your Water/Wastewater
Process Monitoring – sponsored by
MRWA – (207) 729-6569 - Approved
for 5 hours

October 18, 2006 in Caribou, ME –
Verifying your Water/Wastewater
Treatment Process – sponsored by
MRWA – (207) 729-6569 - Approved
for 4 hours

October 18, 2006 in Seal Harbor, ME -
Working with Your Contract Lab,
Sampling Procedures & Data Evaluation –
Sponsored by JETCC – (207)-253-8020
– Approved for 6 hours

October 19, 2006 in Kittery, ME –
Simplifying your Water/Wastewater
Process Monitoring – sponsored by
MRWA – (207) 729-6569 - Approved
for 5 hours

October 20, 2006 in York, ME –
Verifying your Water/Wastewater
Treatment Process – sponsored by
MRWA – (207) 729-6569 - Approved
for 4 hours

October 26, 2006 in Dixfield, ME –
Work Zone Traffic Control – sponsored
by MRWA – (207) 729-6569 -
Approved for 5.5 hours

November 1 & 2, 2006 in Presque Isle ,
ME - North Country Convention –
Sponsored by JETCC – (207)-253-8020
– Approved for up to 12 hours

November 7, 2006 in Saco, ME -
QA/QC of Laboratory Instruments –
Sponsored by JETCC – (207)-253-8020
– Approved for 3 hours

November 7, 2006 in Saco, ME -
Working with Your Contract Lab &
Data Evaluation – Sponsored by JETCC
– (207)-253-8020 – Approved for 3
hours

November 7, 2006 in Augusta, Dyer
Brook, Gorham & Orono, ME –
Chemical Feed Pumps 101 – Sponsored
by MRWA – (207) 729-6569 -
Approved for 4 hours

November 8, 2006 in Waterville, ME -
Applying Process Control Techniques
to WWTF Operations – Sponsored by
JETCC – (207)-253-8020 – Approved
for 6 hours

November 14, 2006 in Hallowell, ME -
Asset Management & Budgeting –
Sponsored by JETCC – (207)-253-8020
– Approved for 6 hours

November 16, 2006 in Brewer, ME -
Pump Station Basics, Retrofits &
Troubleshooting – Sponsored by JETCC
– (207)-253-8020 – Approved for 6
hours

November 28-30, 2006 in Westbrook,
ME - O & M of Wastewater Collection
Systems *With voluntary NEWEA Exam* –
Sponsored by JETCC – (207)-253-8020
– Approved for 15 hours

December 5, 2006 in Winthrop, ME -
Filtration Technologies for Effluent
Enhancement – Sponsored by JETCC –
(207)-253-8020 – Approved for 6 hours

December 7, 2006 in Augusta, ME -
Hands-On GIS 101 for Infrastructure
Management – Sponsored by JETCC –
(207)-253-8020 – Approved for 6 hours

December 14, 2006 in Augusta, ME -
Advanced Microsoft Excel – Sponsored
by JETCC – (207)-253-8020 –
Approved for 6 hours

Note: JETCC stands for Joint
Environmental Training Coordinating
Committee
MRWA stands for Maine Rural Water
Association
MWWCA stands for Maine Wastewater
Control Association
NEIWPC stands for New England
Interstate Water Pollution Control
Commission
WPETC stands for Wright Pierce
Environmental Training Center.

10th Biannual North Country Convention to be held in November

The biannual two-day training
conference for operators in Northern
Maine will be held this year on
November 1st and 2nd in Presque Isle.
As usual, 12 or more hours of approved
training on a variety of topics will be
presented over the two days. The North
Country Convention has always been
well attended by operators from the
northern part of the state. It offers not
only an opportunity to attend training
sessions but also to meet with product
vendors and exchange ideas with each
other. For more information about the
North Country Convention, contact
JETCC at 253-8020.

For Practice

1. The laboratory test used to measure the concentration of hydrogen ions in water is called
 - a. Turbidity
 - b. oxidation-reduction potential (ORP)
 - c. Alkalinity
 - d. pH
2. The volt is:
 - a. the basic unit of electrical power
 - b. the basic unit of electrical potential
 - c. the basic unit of electrical resistance
 - d. the basic unit of electrical current
3. If too much aeration is provided in the aeration basin, what is most likely to happen in the secondary clarifier(s)?
 - a. the sludge will become bulky and hard to settle
 - b. the oxygen uptake will increase.
 - c. the settling of the activated sludge will improve.
 - d. there will be small floc particles on the surface of the clarifier
4. A wastewater treatment plant receives waste from domestic users and an industry. The influent flow is 1,250,000 gpd. and the influent BOD averages 185 mg/l. If an average of 0.17 lb/person/day is assumed for domestic waste, what is the population equivalent served by the plant
 - a. 2,537
 - b. 6,439
 - c. 11,344
 - d. 34,582

Fall 2006 Exam

The fall 2006 Wastewater Operator Certification Exam will be given Wednesday -- November 15, 2006 in the usual locations, Portland, Bangor and Presque Isle. If you submitted an application by the deadline, you should receive a confirmation letter shortly. If you missed the deadline for the fall exam, you can sign up to take the test in the spring. The spring exam will be given in the usual locations on Wednesday, May 16, 2007.



Answers to For Practice:

1. d. pH measures the concentration of hydrogen ions in water. Neutral pH ($\text{pH} = 7$) means that there is a balance of hydrogen (H^+) ions and hydroxide (OH^-) ions in the water. When there are more hydrogen ions, the pH is lower. This is an acid condition. When there are more hydroxide ions, the pH is higher. This is an alkaline condition.
2. b The volt is the unit used to express electrical potential.
3. a. Too much aeration will cause the sludge to become over-oxidized resulting in pin-floc formation. Pin floc do not settle well and will be carried up and over the weirs. Over-aeration may also cause well-formed floc particles to shear, breaking them into smaller clumps which do not settle well.
4. c $1,250,000 \text{ gallons} = 1.25 \text{ MG}$
 $\text{Plant Loading} = 1.25 \text{ MG} \times 185 \text{ mg BOD/L} \times 8.34 \text{ lb/gallons} = 1,929 \text{ lb BOD/day}$
 $1,929 \text{ lb BOD/day} / 0.17 \text{ lb/person/day} = 11,344 \text{ persons}$